

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018055

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VS, SV, UN

SUBJECT: PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA

REF: A. USUN 0135

B. BERN 0292

1. DEPT BELIEVES THAT PRG OFFICE BEING ESTABLISHED IN GENEVA WILL ATTEMPT TO ARROGATE UNTO ITSELF FUNCTIONS BEYOND THOSE DESCRIBED FOR IT IN USEFUL STATEMENT BY UN SPOKESMAN ON JANUARY 16 (REF A). THIS CONCERN IS HEIGHTENED BY CHOICE OF PHAM VAN BA, HUYNH CONG TAM AND NGUYAN VINH MY TO MAN AN OFFICE WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED SOLELY FOR LIAISON WITH UNHCR AND UNICEF. THESE MEN ARE WELL KNOWN, SENIOR PRG POLITICAL OPERATIVES WHO HEAD UP PRG PERMANENT MISSION IN PARIS. THEREFORE, US MISSION GENEVA WILL HAVE A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TASK IN BEING ALERT FOR EVIDENCE THAT PRG OFFICE IS EXCEEDING ITS PRE-ROGATIVES.

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2. FOLLOWING ARE AREAS IN WHICH PRG OFFICE MAY ATTEMPT

TO BROADEN ITS ACTIVITY:

A. DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION, PROVISION OF BRIEFINGS
OR GIVING SPEECHES ON POLITICAL ISSUES CLEARLY BEYOND THOSE
HUMANITARIAN MATTERS WHICH IT IS DESIGNATED TO HANDLE;

B. ASSUMPTION OF CONSULAR FUNCTIONS SUCH AS ISSUANCE OF
VISAS OR LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER;

C. USE AS BASE FOR LOBBYING DELEGATES TO VARIOUS INTER-
NATIONAL CONFERENCES TAKING PLACE IN GENEVA AND FOR
OBTAINING PRG STATUS AT SUCH CONFERENCES;

D. USE AS Foothold FOR ESTABLISHING OBSERVER OFFICE OF
TYPE WHICH PLO APPARENTLY WILL SEEK IN GENEVA AS A RESULT
OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3237 INVITING PLO TO
PARTICIPATE AS AN OBSERVER IN ALL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES CONVENED UNDER AUSPICES OF UNGA AND CON-
SIDERING PLO ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVER AT ALL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES CONVENED UNDER AUSPICES OF
OTHER UN ORGANS.

3. FOR BERN: EMBASSY INSTRUCTED TO REVIEW WITH
APPROPRIATE SWISS OFFICIALS NATURE OF PERMIT PRG WILL
RECEIVE AND EXTENT TO WHICH ITS ACTIVITY WILL BE CIR-
CUMSCRIBED UNDER SWISS LAW SO THAT PRG WORKING PERMITS
OR RESIDENCE PERMITS WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY EXTENSION
OF OFFICE'S ACTIVITY INTO ANY OF THE AREAS LISTED ABOVE.
WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS NO PERFECT WAY IN ANY SYSTEM
OF ACHIEVING 100 PERCENT LIMITATION OF SUCH AN OFFICE TO
ITS ORIGINALLY STIPULATED PURPOSE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE
IN OUR INTERESTS AND PRESUMABLY IN THE INTERESTS OF SWISS
GOVERNMENT, WHICH DOES NOT RECOGNIZE PRG, TO CIRCUMSCRIBE
OPERATIONS OF PRG OFFICE AS NARROWLY AND AS CLEARLY AS
POSSIBLE UNDER APPLICABLE SWISS LAW.

4. MISSION SHOULD REPORT PROMPTLY ANY EVIDENCE OF
ACTIVITY OF PRG OFFICE WHICH APPEARS TO EXTEND BEYOND
ITS FUNCTION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF SUCH INFORMATION
AS EMBASSY BERN MAY PROVIDE IN RESPONSE TO PARA 3 ABOVE.
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DEPT SEES NO PROBLEM IN MAINTAINING NECESSARY WORKING
LEVEL CONTACTS IN WINESPEARE'S OFFICE BE AWARE THAT WE
ARE KEEPING CLOSE WATCH AS TO EXTENT TO WHICH PRG OFFICE
BEING HELD WITHIN LIMITS DESCRIBED IN REF A BY UN SPOKES-
MAN. DEPT BELIEVES GVN REPS IN GENEVA SHOULD LIKEWISE
KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON THE MATTER AND MISSION SHOULD BEGIN
REGULAR CONTACT WITH THEM. MISSION SHOULD ASSURE THEM
THAT WE ARE READY TO RECEIVE, EXAMINE AND, IF NECESSARY,

DISCUSS WITH UN SECRETARIAT IN GENEVA OR NEW YORK ANY
CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT PRG OFFICE EXCEEDING ITS AUTHORITY.
INGERSOLL

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